XXIV. *The Caſe of* Ann Davenport. *By Mr.* Fielding Beſt Fynney, *Surgeon at* Leek, *in* Staffordſhire; *communicated to* Thomas Percival, *M. D. F. R. S. and by him to Sir* John Pringle, *Bart. P. R. S.*

TO SIR JOHN PRINGLE, BART. P. R. S.

SIR,

Manchester, April 8, 1777.

Read April 10, 1777.

I TOOK the liberty, a few days ago, of tranſmitting to you, by a private hand, a ſingular caſe, ſent me by Mr. F. B. FYNNEY, an ingenious ſurgeon, who is ſettled at Leek in Staffordſhire. He deſires that it may be laid before the Royal Society; and I ſhall think myſelf much obliged by your compliance with his requeſt.

TO

TO DR. PERCIVAL.

SIR, Leek, March 10, 1777.

UPON May 16, 1775, being deſired to viſit ANN DAVENPORT, a native of this town, I beheld a truly miſerable object, with the moſt cadaverous countenance I had ever ſeen, emaciated to the laſt degree by a hectic fever, and profuſe colliquative ſweats. She had a continual thirſt, her appetite was totally gone, and ſhe was always in the extremes of being too looſe or too bound.

Her mother informed me, that ſhe was then in her twenty-firſt year; and that ſhe had been a ſtrong and ſprightly child from her birth, until ſhe was about five years of age, from which time ſhe had been a ſtranger to health, and every now and then had been ſeized with excruciating fits of the colic, eſpecially whenever ſhe ate or drank any thing the leaſt acid.

The young woman told me, that about a year ago ſhe had firſt perceived a ſwelling on the right ſide of her belly, juſt above the groin; which, if at any time ſhe attempted to ſtretch out her thigh, gave her inexpreſſible pain, as if ſomething ſtabbed her in that part:

that therefore ſhe was always obliged to keep up her knees, more or leſs, towards her breaſt, by which means ſhe had, in ſome degree, loſt the power of extending her limbs.

I ordered her to take half a drachm of powdered bark in a little red port wine every four hours; and, as matter had already formed within the tumor, I deſired that a maturating poultice might be applied every night and morning; for I imagined that nature, without ſuch aſſiſtance, could never bring the abſceſs to a head in her weak condition.

July 10th, the matter pointing at the upper end of the tumour very near the *os ilium*, I made a large opening, from which was diſcharged an amazing quantity of *pus*; but, as the tenſion was ſtill great, I applied a linſeed poultice over the common dreſſings: nevertheleſs, in a few days a ſecond abſceſs began to form towards the *vertebræ* of the loins, between the falſe ribs and the *os ilium*, which was rapid in its progreſs, for it was brought to maturation, and opened on the 26th.

On the 31ſt I was alarmed with a gangrenous appearance of the whole integuments of the *abdomen:* for this ſhe took one drachm of powdered bark in red-port every three hours; but, as veſications and every ſym-

ptom of a *ſphacelus* continued to increaſe, I likewiſe uſed the bark externally, in the two following forms, every morning and evening:

℞ *Tinct. Cort. Peruv. Simp.* ℥ ij
——— *Myrrh. Comp.* ℥ j
Sp. Sal. Ammon.
Mell. Ægypt. aa. ℥ ſſ. *m. fiat embrocat.*

℞ *Fæc. Cereviſ. acid.* ℔ j
Farin. Avenac. q. s. coque ad conſiſtentiam Cataplaſmatis, et adde Pulv. Cort. Peruv. ℥ j
Ol. Olivar. rec. ℥ iv *m. fiat Cataplaſm.*

This treatment ſoon put the mortification to a ſtand, and the parts ſloughing off largely left three holes, at nearly equal diſtances one from another, betwixt the firſt opening and the left *os ilium*, beſides ſeveral ones in different parts of the belly; but as the diſcharge was immoderate, I looked upon the patient to be in the utmoſt danger. However, the ſame courſe was perſevered in, and at the latter end of Auguſt another abſceſs appeared lower down, towards the right groin; I ordered it to be poulticed, and left it to open of itſelf, which it did on the 21ſt of September. I was immediately called to her; and,

and, upon carefully examining the part, I found a hard ſubſtance deeply ſeated, which I directly extracted[a].

It was making its way towards the integuments from the extremity of the *appendix vermiformis* of the *cæcum*, which probably, and fortunately, by former inflammations had adhered to the *peritonæum*. The large end came firſt, and the ſmall end was within the *appendix vermiformis* of the *cæcum* at the time I took it out; for, immediately upon the extraction, ſome excrements followed, and among them ſome dark brown particles which I diſcovered to be filings of iron, which the patient had formerly taken in a large quantity, as ſhe had never been regular like other women. On a careful examination I found ſome of theſe filings quite reduced to ruſt,

(a) See plate IX. the figures 1. and 2. are different views of the external ſurface of this irregular ſubſtance, and of ſo much of its *nucleus* as projects out of the round part, exactly as both appeared on being taken out of the body. The whole was of a duſky brown colour, and had a great reſemblance to a ſmall ſhrivelled pear. Fig. 3. is a ſection of the round part, which ſeemed to be formed of fine fibrous ſubſtances, cloſely cemented together by an earthy matter, and of the peg of crab-tree wood, its *nucleus*. This figure likewiſe ſhews how far the peg went in, and alſo an incruſtation of ſtony matter upon it.

The *nucleus*, I believe, is the ſmaller end of that part of a ſilk engine called a ſtar, at which machine the patient had been employed before ſhe was five years of age, therefore it muſt have been lodged at leaſt ſixteen years within the *appendix vermiformis* of the *cæcum*, as ſhe remembers nothing of ſwallowing it, and as during that courſe of years ſhe had frequently been afflicted with the ſevere colics before-mentioned.

but

but ſtill retaining their form as they came from under the file.

Some *fæces* came through this laſt wound daily, frequently moſt copiouſly; and ſometimes (though the external orifice was large) by being confined with the dreſſings, they inſinuated themſelves between the integuments of the *abdomen*, and came through the other openings. About the middle of February 1776, the diſcharge of the excrements by theſe openings was ſenſibly diminiſhed; and the wounds were all healed, except one, by the latter end of the year, through which a ſmall quantity of excrements ſtill continue to paſs now and then.

Her health is, within this ſhort time, ſurprizingly improved; ſhe is now very fleſhy and ſtrong, has had the *catamenia*, and I have the greateſt reaſon to expect that ſhe will be perfectly cured. Strict regard was all along paid to the non-naturals.

As the caſe above is a very uncommon one, I prevailed on the reverend Mr. ROGERS, miniſter of this place, to viſit the patient along with me; and he was ſo fully ſatisfied of the truth of the account, as to give me the following certificate.

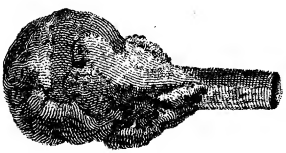
I hereby

I hereby certify, that I ſaw, this 27th day of December, 1775, Mr. FIELDING BEST FYNNEY dreſs his patient ANN DAVENPORT, and was an eye-witneſs to pure *fæces* coming out of the wound from which he had extracted an irregular ſubſtance on the 21ſt of September laſt.

As witneſs my hand,

J. ROGERS,
Miniſter of Leek.

Fig: 1.



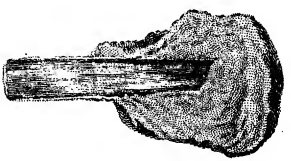


Fig: 3.

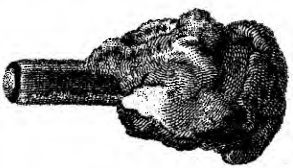


Fig: 2.